

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 HEW-08 LAB-06 SIL-01 L-03

COME-00 SS-20 PM-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-14 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01 FEA-02 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 /163 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: TSPA, IN

SUBJ: CARCINOGENIC ROCKET FUEL BYPRODUCT

1. PRODUCTION OF ROCKET FUEL UDMH (UNSYMMETRICAL DI-METHYL HYDRAZINE) WHICH IS MANUFACTURED IN US ONLY BY FMC CORP.HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY STOPPED BECAUSE A BYPRODUCT CHEMICAL N-NITROSODIMETHYLAMINE (DMN) HAS BEEN JUDGED BY THE DEPT. OF LABOR TO BE A SUSPECTED CARCINOGEN FOR MAN. VERY SPECIAL HANDLING PROCEDURES ARE REQUIRED BY DOL FOR SUCH CHEMICALS.

2. WE UNDERSTAND INDIA AND USSR ALSO PRODUCE UDMH, BUT DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT PROCESS IN USE THERE INVOLVES DMN AS A BYPRODUCT. (THE US WILL PROBABLY SET UP NEW PRODUCTION LINES TO PRODUCE UDMH BY AN ALTERNATE PROCESS THAT DOES NOT PRODUCE DMN.)

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3. INDIAN AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE INFORMED OF
USG FINDINGS ON DMN. A COPY OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER OF
1/29/74 CONTAINING INFORMATION ON DOL POLICY ON DMN, AND
A COPY OF RELATED PUBLIC LAW 91-596, ARE BEING AIRPOUCHED.
ALL OF THIS INFORMATION CAN BE PASSED ON TO INDIAN AND
SOVIET OFFICIALS. UNLESS EMBASSY MOSCOW SCI COUNSELOR
PERCEIVES PROBLEMS, HE MAY, AT HIS DISCRETION, PASS ABOVE
INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE SOVIET OFFICIALS.

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